

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The procedure of the invention sets a transparent area on an image consisting of multiple pixels. Each pixel has, as parameters, three channels respectively having tone values in a predetermined range with regard to three primary colors, R, G, and B and an alpha channel having a tone value in a predetermined range that represents a degree of transparency. In response to specification of a degree of transparency and its range to set a transparent area, the procedure inputs a data value A_{in} of the alpha channel representing the specified degree of transparency and the specified range of the transparent area, and compares the input data value A_{in} with a current setting of data value A of the alpha channel with respect to each of the pixels in the specified range. The procedure updates the current setting of data value A to the input data value A_{in} with respect to only pixels having the data value A_{in} smaller than the current setting of data value A (that is, pixels of opaqueness), calculates a tone value of each corresponding pixel from the updated data value A , and displays a transparent area on the image, based on the calculated tone values.